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burn it twice a year, viz., at the spring, and the fall of the leaf. The reason that moves them to do so is because it would otherwise be so overgrown with underweeds that it would be all a coppice-wood, and the people would not be able in any wise to pass through the country out of a beaten path. This custom hath bin continual from the beginning." Too little account has been taken of the selective effect of such burning, "from the beginning," on the vegetation of our country, and DR. JEPSON has done well in devoting some pages to a consideration of its influence on the trees of California.

The second and larger part of DR. JEPSON's volume is given to systematic descriptions of the different trees, with the necessary keys for the guidance of the reader to their identification. Both keys and descriptions are satisfactory to the botanist, while not presenting difficulties too great for anyone of fair education and mental ability. The full notes on distribution, economic uses, and cognate topics add much to the interest of the book, whose value is further enhanced by the numerous and excellent figures in the text.—S. B. PARISH.

The trees of Kentucky

There is no more expeditious way to interest people generally in trees and thus promote the conservation of forests than by issuing well-illustrated, non-technical handbooks on the trees of the various states. Thus there is stimulated local pride in the particular trees and forests of any section. One of the neatest and most satisfactory of such handbooks, dealing with the trees of Kentucky, has just appeared.² Few states have a more diversified tree flora than Kentucky, which in its eastern portion has a representative development of the Alleghany forests, while in the west there is found a northern extension of the characteristic trees of the Lower Mississippi. The trees are arranged in modern fashion, and there are many excellent photographic reproductions showing leaf, bark, or fruit characters, with a smaller number of full-page plates showing field habits and habitats. The descriptions are particularly good, since the chief distinguishing characters are tersely presented in simple terms, the usual mass of technical description being properly avoided. To the uninitiated it may seem surprising that there are 108 species of trees known to be native to the state (exclusive of *Crataegus*), while the presence of eight others is suspected; in addition there are ten species of large shrubs that may at times be regarded as trees. The Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs is to be congratulated on its unusual foresight and good sense in issuing a book of this character and providing for its free distribution within the state; the federation is also to be congratulated for having been able to enlist so capable a person as Mrs. MAURY in the preparation of the volume.—H. C. COWLES.

² MAURY, SARAH WEBB, *Native trees of Kentucky*, a handbook. pp. 140. figs. 47. Louisville: published by the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs. 1910. \$1.00. (Copies may be obtained from Mrs. H. C. Muir, Nicholasville, Ky.)